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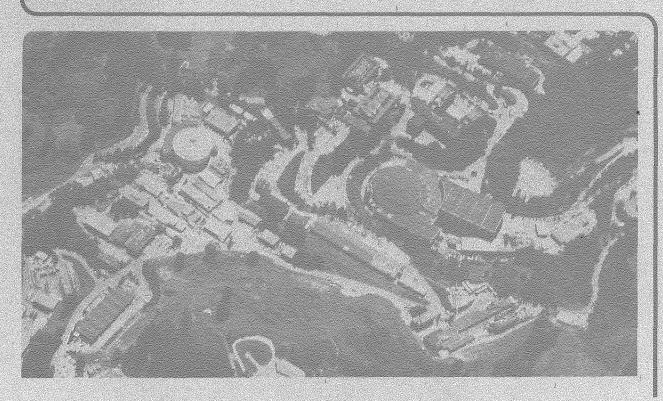
SOFT-GLUON EFFECTS IN NONLEPTONIC DECAYS OF CHARMED **MESONS**

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SOFT-GLUON EFFECTS IN NONLEPTONIC DECAYS OF CHARMED MESONS

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ABSTRACT

Soft-gluon effects in nonleptonic decays of D and F mesons are studied nonperturbatively by use of a QCD multipole expansion. For reasonable values of D-meson bound-state parameters, the soft-gluon effects lead to a significant difference in the lifetimes of the D^0 and D^+ mesons.

Recent experiments [1] have reported an appreciable difference in the lifetimes of the D⁰ and D⁺ mesons, with $\tau(D^+)/\tau(D^0) = 3 \sim 10$. A simple picture of charmed meson decays, based on the charm-quark decay process $c \to su\bar{d}$ or $sv\bar{\ell}$ (fig. 1(a)), predicts equal lifetimes for D⁰, D⁺ and F⁺ mesons. The observed lifetime difference suggests significant enhancements of nonleptonic D⁰ decays by some dynamical mechanisms [2].

The W-exchange process ("quark-annihilation" process), as depicted in fig. 1(b), contributes solely to D decays. A helicity factor $(m_1/M_p)^2$ and the small probability for quark-pair annihilation in the D meson combine to make its contribution negligibly small. A number of authors [3-5], however, have pointed out that the presence of gluons may be crucial to the removal of helicity suppression which otherwise is inherent in quark-annihilation processes. Singlehard-gluon emission from the D^0 meson [3-5], as depicted in fig.2(a), serves to remove helicity suppression of the accompanying weak decay and enhances the D^0 decay rate; however, such short-distance QCD effects alone seem to be too small to account for the D^0-D^+ lifetime difference. Soft gluons inside (or surrounding) the D meson are equally likely sources of enhancement for nonleptonic D^0 decays. Because of the nonperturbative nature of soft-gluon interactions, however, estimates of their effects have so far been purely phenomenological [4].

The purpose of this paper is to present a dynamical calculation of the soft-gluon effects on D^0 -decay enhancements. We study the

soft-gluon effects nonperturbatively by use of a QCD multipole expansion [6-8] and relate them to the vacuum expectation value

$$V = \langle 0| (\alpha_S/\pi) F_{UV}[A]^2 | 0 \rangle \sim 0.012 \text{ GeV}^4,$$
 (1)

whose magnitude is phenomenologically known from the charmonium sum rules of Shifman, Vainshtein and Zakharov [9]. This matrix element provides a measure of the nonperturbative soft-gluon fluctuations residing in QCD color-confinement mechanisms.

Figure 2(b) represents the process we consider. A hard gluon in fig. 2(a) is replaced by a collection of soft gluons here. (What is meant by a collection of soft gluons will be made clearer below.) We treat the D^0 meson as a nonrelativistic bound state $^{\rm Fl}$ of c and $\bar{\rm u}$ constituent quarks of mass $\rm m_{c}\approx 1.65~GeV$ and $\rm m_{u}\approx 0.34~GeV.$ Soft-gluon emission from the final quarks is not taken into account since it is not directly related to the removal of helicity suppression factors. Both the motion and the soft-gluon interactions of the c quark are ignored in what follows; they are suppressed by a ratio $\rm m_{u}/\rm m_{c}$ in the decay amplitude as compared with those of the $\rm \bar{u}$ quark.

Let us expand the soft-gluon field around the c quark into multipoles. The multipole terms are cast into a manifestly gauge-invariant form by a suitable transformation [7,8]. The interaction

of the u quark with the gluon field is described by the Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}^{QCD} = g\overline{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}) \left[\mathbf{y}^{0} \overset{\rightarrow}{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \overset{\rightarrow}{\mathbf{E}}^{\mathbf{a}}(\vec{0}) + \frac{1}{2m} (\vec{\sigma} + \vec{\mathbf{L}}) \cdot \overset{\rightarrow}{\mathbf{H}}^{\mathbf{a}}(\vec{0}) \right] (\frac{1}{2} \lambda^{\mathbf{a}}) \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) + \dots, (2)$$

where u(x) is the u quark field at position \vec{x} , $E^{ka}(\vec{0})$ = $\left(F^{k0}[A(\vec{0})]\right)^a$ and $H^{ka}(\vec{0}) = -\frac{1}{2} \, \epsilon^{k\ell m} F_{\ell m}^a[A(\vec{0})] \, (F_{\mu\nu}[A]]$ = $\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + g A_\mu \times A_\nu$ are the soft-gluon fields defined at the c quark position $(\vec{x}=\vec{0})$, and $\vec{L}=\vec{x}\times\vec{p}$ $(p^k=-i\partial/\partial x^k)$ is the angular momentum of the u-quark motion. Only the color-E1 and the color-M1 interactions are shown. The color-Coulomb interaction does not act on a color-singlet $c\bar{u}$ system. Higher multipole interactions are not included. Note that the \vec{L} term in (2) does not contribute to an S-wave state.

The initial D^0 meson is a color-singlet (1), 1S_0 ($c\bar{u}$) bound state. The color-EI interaction turns the D^0 meson into a color-octet (8), P-wave $c\bar{u}$ state while the color-M1 interaction changes both the color and spin of the $c\bar{u}$ system; namely,

$$(1, {}^{1}S_{0}) = (8, {}^{1}P_{1}) + \mathscr{G} (E1),$$

$$(8, {}^{3}S_{1}) + \mathscr{G} (M1).$$

$$(3)$$

Here $\mathscr G$ stands collectively for the color-octet states that are reached by either a color-El or a color-Ml soft-gluon interaction; we call $\mathscr G$ the "soft gluons".

The virtual color-octet $c\bar{u}$ systems have $J^P=1^+$ or $J^P=1^-$ so that their subsequent weak decays are free of helicity suppression. The $\Delta S=\Delta C=-1$ nonleptonic weak Hamiltonian is given by (we set the Cabbibo angle $\theta_C=0$)

$$\mathcal{H}^{W} = \frac{4G}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\left(\frac{1}{N} f_{1} + f_{2} \right) \left(\bar{s} d \right)_{L} (\bar{u}c)_{L} + \frac{1}{2} f_{1} (\bar{s} \lambda^{a} d)_{L} (\bar{u} \lambda^{a} c)_{L} \right] + h.c.,$$
(4)

where Lorentz as well as color indices have been suppressed in usual fashion; $(\bar{u}c)_L \equiv \bar{u}\gamma^{\mu}\frac{1}{2}(1-\gamma_5)c$, etc. This is a Fierz-reordered form (suitable for D^0 decays) of the conventional weak Hamiltonian. In the above, N=3 for color SU(3); we use SU(N) notation to keep track of color factors. Hard-gluon exchange corrections to the weak Hamiltonian [10] change the coefficients f_1 and f_2 from their zeroth-order values $(f_1=1)$ and $f_2=0$ 0 to $f_1\sim 1.42$ and $f_2\sim -0.74$.

Let us denote the D^0 -meson wave function in momentum space by $\psi(\vec{p})$ normalized so that $(2\pi)^{-3}\!\!\int\!\!d^3p\,|\psi(\vec{p})\,|^2=1$, where \vec{p} is the momentum of the \vec{u} quark in the D^0 meson. Note that the S-wave function $\psi(\vec{p})$ is a function of $|\vec{p}|$. As usual, quark spinors are approximated by free quark spinors. The virtual \vec{cu} states can be decomposed into spin-zero and spin-one components by use of appropriate spin-projection operators. The old-fashioned perturbation theory leads to the following amplitude for the process in fig. 2(b).

$$\mathcal{F} = \sqrt{\frac{M_D}{N}} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{M_D - \epsilon} L_{\mu}^a(\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}_2) J^{\mu a}(\vec{p}, \vec{\omega}) \psi(\vec{p}), \qquad (5)$$

where ϵ is the energy of the intermediate $(c\bar{u})_8 + \mathcal{G}$ state, $\bar{\omega}$ is the momentum of the "soft-gluon" state $|\mathcal{G}>$ and $L^a_\mu(q_1,q_2)$ refers to the weak current of the light quarks

$$L_{\mu}^{a}(\vec{q}_{1}, \vec{q}_{2}) = \sqrt{2}G(\frac{1}{2}f_{1})\bar{u}_{s}(q_{1})\gamma_{\mu}\lambda^{a}(1-\gamma_{5})v_{d}(q_{2}). \tag{6}$$

For the color-El interaction $J^{\mu a}(p,\omega)$ is given by

$$J^{\mu a}(E1) = g \langle \mathcal{G} | E^{ka}(\vec{0}) | 0 \rangle \begin{bmatrix} x^{k} \\ p^{\ell} x^{k} / (2m_{1}) \end{bmatrix} (\mu=0)$$

$$(7)$$

while for the color-Ml interaction

$$J^{\mu a}(\text{M1}) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{g}{m_u} \langle \mathcal{G} | H^{ka}(\vec{0}) | 0 \rangle \begin{bmatrix} p^k/(2m_u) \\ \delta^{k\ell} + i\epsilon^{k\ell} j_p j/(2m_u) \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mu = 0 \\ \mu = \ell \end{pmatrix},$$
(8)

where terms quadratic in $\stackrel{\rightarrow}{p}$ or higher as well as those F2 that vanish as $\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\omega} \rightarrow 0$ have been omitted.

Soft gluons are strongly interacting and need to be treated nonperturbatively. The decay rate, e.g. for the process with the color-M1 interaction, involves a sum over the soft-gluon states $\mid \mathcal{G}> \text{ of the form}$

$$\underset{\mathcal{G}}{\sum} \langle 0 | H^{ib}(\vec{0}) | \mathcal{G} \rangle \langle \mathcal{G} | H^{ja}(\vec{0}) | 0 \rangle \frac{1}{(M_n - \epsilon)^2} (\cdots) .$$
 (9)

The energy denominator M_D^0 - ϵ represents the energy difference between the initial D^0 -meson state and the virtual $(c\bar{u})_8^- + \mathscr{G}$ state. It will be reasonable to suppose that, owing to color confinement, the virtual color-octet $c\bar{u}$ system has higher energy than the initial D^0 -meson state and that this energy difference does not vanish even for very soft gluons $(\bar{u} \to 0)$. [For example, this is the case for mesons bound by a one-gluon-exchange potential, which is repulsive between a color-octet quark-antiquark pair.] This energy difference will be of the order of $100 \sim 200$ MeV, a typical scale related to confinement; this point will be discussed later. With these in mind, we approximate the soft-gluon sum in (9) as follows

(i)
$$\mathcal{G}|\mathcal{G} > (\varepsilon - M_{D})^{-1} < \mathcal{G}| \sim (\Delta \varepsilon)^{-1}1.$$
 (10)

Namely, the energy denominator $\epsilon - M_{\rm D}$ is replaced by a constant value $\Delta\epsilon$ typical for the soft-gluon reaction we consider. It is understood that eq. (10) is inserted between soft-gluon states (i.e. excluding hard-gluon states); accordingly we set $\dot{\omega} \sim 0$ in (...) of eq. (9).

(ii) The soft-gluon world would exhibit approximate Lorentz invariance relative to the wavelengths of color fluctuations in it. By making use of this invariance, eq. (9), which is now rewritten as

$$<0|H^{ib}(\vec{0})H^{ja}(\vec{0})|0>(\Delta\epsilon)^{-2}(\cdots),$$
 (11)

is related to $<0|\mathbf{F}_{\mu\nu}^2|_0>$ in eq. (1).

An argument in favor of these approximations F3 is made as follows: The phenomenological value for $\mathcal{V}=<0\,|\,(\alpha_{\rm S}/\pi)\,{\rm F}_{\mu\nu}^2\,|\,0>$ in eq. (1) represents nonperturbative (long-distance) QCD effects F4 ; namely, this matrix element is predominantly saturated by the long-distance color fluctuations of confinement physics. Each of the above approximations relies upon and could be justified by this dominance of long-distance dynamics in the phenomenological value of \mathcal{V} .

The value of the unknown quantity $\Delta\epsilon$ may be estimated in the following way. The annihilation of the virtual color-octet $c\bar{u}$ system by the weak current occurs in a small domain of the size $1/m_c$, the Compton wavelength of the c quark. Correspondingly, $\Delta\epsilon$ will be relatively sensitive to the short-distance structure (e.g. the spin-dependent part) of the $c\bar{u}$ binding potential. Although the virtual $c\bar{u}$ system is in color-octet, the $(c\bar{u})_8 + \mathcal{C}$ state as a whole is a color-singlet and presumably is still in a bound state [of spatial spread of the order of $1/\Delta\epsilon$]. Namely, the virtual state may be picturized as a spin-one D-meson system with a (color-octet) gluon cloud; and the total energy of this meson system may not be drastically affected by the spatially small color concentration of the $c\bar{u}$ system. If this picture is adequate, the ${}^3S_1 - {}^1S_0$ fine structure of the D-meson system provides a reasonable guess for $\Delta\epsilon$ (for the color-M1 process):

$$\Delta \varepsilon \simeq M(D^*) - M(D) \approx 140 \text{ MeV}.$$
 (12)

A naive estimate of the "binding energy" of the $\, D^{0} \,$ meson gives another measure of $\, \Delta c \colon$

$$\Delta \varepsilon \sim m_c + m_u - M_D \approx 120 \text{ MeV}$$
 (13)

With the abovementioned approximations, the amplitude (9) simplifies. In particular, since $x^j = i\partial/\partial p^j$ in \vec{p} space,

$$\int d^3 p \ p^{\ell} x \dot{J}_{\psi}(\vec{p}) = - i \delta^{\ell} \int d^3 p_{\psi}(\vec{p}) \tag{14}$$

by an integration by parts. F5 In the nonrelativistic approximation, the wave function at the origin $\vec{x}=0$, $\phi(\vec{0})=(2\pi)^3\int d^3p\psi(\vec{p})$, is related to the D-meson decay constant f_D so that

$$\tilde{\tau}_{D} = 2(N/M_{D})^{1/2} |\phi(\vec{0})|.$$

Apart from an unobservable overall phase factor, the amplitude ${\mathscr F}$ is now rewritten as

$$\mathcal{F} \simeq (4\pi_{11}\Delta_{\epsilon}N)^{-1}gf_{D}M_{D}L_{\ell}^{a}(\overrightarrow{q}_{1},\overrightarrow{q}_{2}) < \mathcal{G}H^{\ell a}(\overrightarrow{0}) + iE^{\ell a}(\overrightarrow{0})|0>, \qquad (15)$$

where we have taken the same $\Delta\epsilon$ for the color-Ml and color-El transitions (although $\Delta\epsilon$ may well be different in the two cases). In the calculation of the decay rate, we use the relation [9]

$$<0|H_{k}^{a}H_{\ell}^{a}|0> = -<0|E_{k}^{a}E_{\ell}^{a}|0> = \frac{1}{12}\delta^{k\ell}<0|F_{\mu\nu}^{2}|0>, \tag{16}$$

in accordance with the approximations explained earlier. Note that $E_k^a \quad \text{is antihermitian in the nonperturbative QCD vacuum.} \quad \text{The contributions of the color-El and the color-Ml processes to the decay rate turn out to be of equal magnitude.} \quad \text{The decay rate} \quad \Gamma^{\text{Sg}} = \Gamma^{\text{Sg}}(\text{El} + \text{Ml}) \quad \text{for the soft-gluon process is given by}$

$$\Gamma^{\text{sg}} = \frac{G^2 f_D^2 M_D^3}{8\pi} \frac{8}{3} \left(\frac{\ell_1}{N}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{4m_D \Delta \epsilon}\right)^2 \mathcal{V} , \qquad (17)$$

where $\mathcal{V}=<0$ $|\frac{\alpha_S}{\pi}$ $F_{\mu\nu}^2|0>$ (eq. (1)), and the light quark masses in the final state have been neglected. On the other hand, the c-quark decay process in fig. 1(a) leads to equal D^0 and D^+ decay rates

$$\Gamma^{c} = (2 + Nh)G^{2}m_{c}^{5}/(192\pi^{3})$$
, (18)

where the factor 2 is for leptons and the factor $h = f_1^2 + f_2^2 + (2/N)f_1f_2 \sim 1.8$ involves the hard-gluon exchange effect. As before, the final quark masses have been neglected. The relative importance of the soft-gluon process to the quark-decay process is seen from the ratio

$$R = \Gamma^{sg}(E1 + M1)/\Gamma^{c}$$

$$= \frac{f_1^2}{(2+Nh)} \left(\frac{2\pi^2}{N}\right)^2 \left(\frac{M_D}{m_C}\right)^3 \left(\frac{f_D}{m_C}\right)^2 \frac{1}{(m_D \Delta \epsilon)^2} .$$
 (19)

Substituting the numerical values quoted earlier for $\mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{u}},\ \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{c}}$ and \mathcal{U} yields

$$R \approx 0.7 \times (f_{D}/\Delta \varepsilon)^{2} . \tag{20}$$

A reasonable estimate for $\,f_D^{},\,$ based on an empirical scaling law for the observed lepton-pair decay rates of vector mesons, gives [5]

$$f_D / \sqrt{2} \sim 150 \text{ MeV}$$
 (21)

With this value for f $_D$ and $\Delta\epsilon$ $^\sim$ 140 MeV(120 MeV), the present soft-gluon process leads to the lifetime difference

$$\tau(D^+)/\tau(D^0) = 1 + R \sim 2.5 (3.0).$$
 (22)

This result indicates that the soft-gluon effect by itself could account for a significant portion of the lifetime difference between the D^+ and D^0 mesons.

The decay rate Γ^{hg} for the single-hard-gluon emission process in fig. 2(a), evaluated perturbatively [3,5], is smaller than the soft-gluon effect Γ^{Sg} :

$$\Gamma^{\text{hg}}/\Gamma^{\text{sg}} = \frac{2}{3} (\alpha_{\text{S}}/\pi^3) (M_{\text{D}}\Delta\epsilon)^2 / \mathcal{V}$$

$$\approx 0.02 \alpha_{\text{S}} \times (\Delta\epsilon/60 \text{ MeV})^2 , \qquad (23)$$

where the α_S is the coupling constant characterizing the hard-gluon emission process. In D⁰ decays, therefore, the hard-gluon emission effect is one order of magnitude smaller than the soft-gluon effect.

Quantitatively the present analysis is a crude estimate because of uncertainties involved in $\Delta \varepsilon$ and f_D and of the approximation scheme employed. It is conceivable that higher-multipole terms, especially those of soft gluons coupled to gluon exchanges between the constituent quarks in the D meson [8], are non negligible for the D-meson system (although they are less important for heavy quarkonium systems). Qualitatively, however, the abovementioned conclusions of the present analysis will, we expect, survive a more detailed analysis.

 $\label{eq:soft-gluon} Soft-gluon \ \mbox{effects are expected to be important in other heavy-} \\ meson \ \mbox{decays as well.}$

(1) Charmed F-meson decays. The present analysis developed for the D⁰ meson is carried over to the F⁺ meson by interchanging u quarks \leftrightarrow s quarks and $f_1 \leftrightarrow f_2$. It is owing to the hard-gluon exchange corrections to the weak Hamiltonian that color-octet cs systems are annihilated into u and d quarks via the process in Fig. 2(b); with either a single color-El or color-Ml soft-gluon interaction, their annihilation into $\nu \bar{\ell}$ is still forbidden by color mismatch. The ratio of the soft-gluon corrections Γ^{Sg} for the F⁺ and D⁰ mesons is given by

$$\frac{\Gamma_{g} \operatorname{sg}(F^{+})}{\Gamma_{g} \operatorname{sg}(D^{0})} = \left(\frac{f_{2}}{f_{1}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{f_{F}}{f_{D}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{m_{u} \Delta \varepsilon_{D}}{m_{s} \Delta \varepsilon_{F}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{M_{F}}{M_{D}}\right)^{3}.$$
(24)

With M $_{F}\approx$ 2.03 GeV, m $_{s}\approx$ 0.54 GeV (constituent quark mass), $\rm f_{F}/f_{D}\sim1.4$ (an estimate based on the scaling law) and

$$\Gamma^{\text{sg}}(F^+)/\Gamma^{\text{sg}}(D^0) \simeq 0.4 . \tag{25}$$

This indicates that the F-meson lifetime is somewhere between those of the D 0 and D † mesons:

$$\tau(D^{0}) < \tau(F^{+}) < \tau(D^{+}) \tag{26}$$

(2) For heavy mesons containing b or t quarks, the difference in the lifetimes of the neutral and charged members will not be as prominent as in the case of D decays. The enhancement of annihilation processes by the soft-gluon effect diminishes rapidly with increasing heavy-quark mass: The ratio R in eq. (19) decreases like $1/m_c^3$ as $m_c \rightarrow \infty$ (since $f_D \propto m_c^{-1/2}$). Correspondingly, in B-meson decays this ratio will presumably be more than one order-of-magnitude smaller than in D decays. As seen from eq. (23), the soft-gluon effect and the hard-gluon emission effect are comparable in B-meson decays. For sufficiently heavy mesons, nonleptonic enhancements will be dominated by short-distance mechanisms, hard-gluon emission from the initial and final quarks.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

- Figure 1. D^0 decays. (a) charm-quark decay process. The \overline{u} quark acts as a spectator. (b) quark-annihilation process. shaded blobs represent W-boson exchanges with hard-gluon exchange corrections.
- Figure 2. Quark-annihilation process with emission of gluons from the D 0 meson. (a) hard-gluon emission. (b) soft-gluon emission. The dashed line refers to a virtual state.

FOOTNOTES

- F1 The nonrelativistic description of the D-meson system, though not as reliable as that of cc charmonium systems, has certain phenomenological success; see, e.g., ref.[10]. The nonrelativistic picture improves somewhat for cs systems.
- F2 Terms that depend on $\overset{\rightarrow}{\omega}$ correspond to higher-multipole terms (other than color-E1 and color-M1 terms).
- F3 Similar approximations have previously been used for heavyquarkonium systems by Voloshin [6].
- F4 In standard perturbation theory, the contribution of very soft gluons to $<0\,|F_{\mu\nu}^2|\,0>$ is vanishingly small at least to lowest order because of derivative coupling. Hard gluons mainly contribute to the renormalization of the operator $\alpha_S^2F_{\mu\nu}^2$ (which is a renormalization-group invariant in the absence of quarks). The nonvanishing value of $<0\,|\alpha_S^2F_{\mu\nu}^2|\,0>$, being a long-wavelength phenomenon, is considered to be a consequence of strong softgluon interactions.
- F5 The surface term in eq. (14) vanishes for a large class of quarkbinding potentials, including the Coulomb and the harmonic oscillator potentials.

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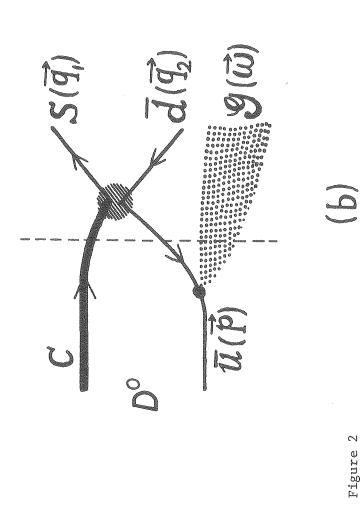
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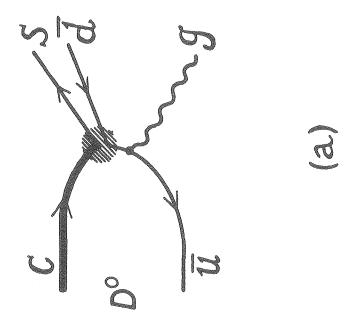
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Figure 1





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